

## **NIGHTWING**

Issue 8

Script: Kyle Higgins

Editor: Bobbie Chase

Assistant Editor: Katie Kubert

11-12-11

### **PAGE 1 (SPLASH)**

Gotham City, 1910. Late afternoon.

We're looking down a busy Gotham City street, just outside the Iceberg Lounge. Several horse drawn carriages are lined up, as four wealthy families are leaving the Iceberg Saloon, making their way towards the carriages.

These four families, the most powerful in Gotham, are:

**The Waynes**-- Alan Wayne (51), his wife (45), and their son Patrick (22)

**The Cobblepots**-- Mayor Frederic Cobblepot (50), his wife (40), and their son (16)

**The Elliots**-- Edward Elliot, his wife, and their daughter Veronica (12)

**The Crownes**-- Burton Crowne (50), his wife (35), and their daughter Amelia (10)

*Eddy-- this scene is set in the early years of "modern" Gotham City. We'll be referencing my miniseries GATES OF GOTHAM for what the skyline and city look like. The most notable aspect is that Old Wayne Tower has to be the tallest building (it would be great to get Old Wayne Tower somewhere in the distance in this shot, too).*

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

This is a story about love.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)

About sacrifice.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)

About betrayal.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)

This is the story...

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...of why the man I will kill  
tonight is Gotham's *worst* betrayer  
of all.

6 TITLE:

Bloodlines

7 ORIGIN BOX:

After witnessing the deaths of his parents as a boy, Dick Grayson was taken under Batman's wing, becoming Robin, the Boy Wonder. But when the Boy Wonder became a man, he shed the identity of Robin and branded himself as NIGHTWING.

8 CREDITS:

KYLE HIGGINS - WRITER  
EDDY BARROWS - PENCILS  
RUY JOSE & EBER FERREIRA - INKS  
ROD REIS - COLORS  
BARROWS & REIS - COVER  
KATIE KUBERT - ASSISTANT EDITOR  
BOBBIE CHASE - EDITOR

NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFGMAN AND GEORGE PEREZ

**PAGE 2**

2.1 Still outside the Saloon, we're focusing on the two young girls-- Veronica and Amelia. They're smiling, playful, as they both hold dolls. Let's give Amelia some defining characteristics so we know it's her when she shows up again on page 14-- I'm thinking bright blue eyes and a little triangle of three freckles under her right eye and on her cheek.

Also, let's give her a small ROBIN necklace. It should be subtle, Eddy, but perhaps something like this:

[http://img0.etsystatic.com/il\\_570xN.83281192.jpg](http://img0.etsystatic.com/il_570xN.83281192.jpg)

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

During the century's turn, Gotham  
City was a wonderful place to grow  
up.

2.2 Reverse angle. In the foreground, the two girls.

In the background-- young WILLIAM COBB (13 years old) is  
juggling three baseballs. His ball cap is on the ground in  
front of him as he begs/performs for change. William does  
this with a wide smile.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
That is, assuming you were a *child*  
of the city.

2.3 Closeup of William. He's slightly older than the girls,  
but a far departure from the wealth anyone at the Iceberg  
Saloon displays. He should look homeless.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
And not just one who *lived* there.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
I was born on the tenth of  
October, the year nineteen hundred  
and one. I was *not* a child of  
Gotham.

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
After all, to *be* such a thing  
would have required my father to  
be one of four men.

2.4 Small insert: Closeup of Alan Wayne.

6 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Alan Wayne...

2.5 Small insert: Closeup of Frederic Cobbepot.

7 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...Frederic Cobbepot...

2.6 Small insert: Closeup of Edward Elliot.

8 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...Edward Elliot...

2.7 Small insert: Closeup of Burton Crowne and Amelia as he leads her away.

9 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...or Burton Crowne.

10 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
The *elite* of Gotham.

11 CAMERON  
Come along, Amelia. It's time to go.

### PAGE 3

3.1 We're looking at William again. Over his shoulder, the Robert Kane Memorial Bridge glistens in the afternoon light. The Robert Kane Memorial Bridge is enormous-- the largest bridge in Gotham (it's based on the real life Brooklyn Bridge).

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
*My* father had been an iron worker,  
like his father before him.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
He spent most of his years  
constructing bridges for the Gates  
brothers and the powerful families  
of the city.

3.2 The families are all getting inside their respective carriages. Let's focus on Burton Crowne, who is looking back over his shoulder towards William.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
When Cameron Kane's Bridge  
collapsed midway through  
construction, my father lost his  
life.

3.3 Burton Crowne, with a look of arrogance, flips a coin towards William's cap.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
And I lost my childhood.

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)

I often point to these years as  
having the most profound effect on  
what I would eventually become.

3.4 Wide shot. William continues to juggle as the carriages  
pull away.

6 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Juggling for pennies while being  
surrounded by the "extravagance"  
of Gotham.

3.5. Closeup of William. He's stopped juggling and is no  
longer smiling. He watches the carriages pull away.

7 WILLIAM (V.O.)

How much *more* hopeless can one  
feel?

#### PAGE 4

4.1 William sits at the kitchen table in his home, counting  
his change. In the background, his mother walks through the  
door. She's late twenties and beaten-down looking. She's  
probably just come off a 12 hour shift.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

My mother spent her days working  
in a textile plant.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Though I was not old enough to be  
on my own, we hadn't the money for  
anyone to look after me.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)

We barely had the money to eat.

4.2 William quickly stuffs the spare change into his hat,  
hiding it from his mother. She sets her purse on the  
counter.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Even still, my mother had warned  
about "begging." She had forbidden  
me from being on street corners.

4.3 Behind her back, William slips the spare change INTO his mother's purse.

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
But how could I do nothing?

4.4 Months later. William juggles for a two person crowd. He's added an extra baseball to his arsenal now, bringing the count up to four.

6 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
It continued like that for months.

4.5 Same angle as 4.4... but William is a year or two older now, and it's now snowing out. The crowd watching William is slightly larger. William has added two more baseballs, bringing the count up to six.

In the background, a man with his cap low and his collar up, moves THROUGH the crowd.

7 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
And well into the next year.

## PAGE 5

5.1 Close on the man-- he's pick pocketing someone.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Until a chance occurrence changed  
*everything.*

5.2 The person being pick pocketed (his names is NATHANIEL-- late forties. He's an albino-- hairless-- and works for Haly's Circus). He's noticing that his wallet is missing now. The pick pocket is RUNNING away.

Eddy, depending on the angle you pick, if we can see William's face it should look surprised.

2 NATHANIEL  
Hey!

3 WILLIAM  
Wha--?

5.3 William THROWS one of the baseballs at the man...

5.4 ...and HITS him in the back of the head.

4 SFX: THUNK

5 MAN

Ugh!

5.5 Nathaniel, down on one knee, is pulling his wallet from the man. William is approaching.

6 NATHANIEL

Impressive aim, son... *Quite* impressive.

7 WILLIAM

Thank you.

8 WILLIAM

I wonder...

5.6 Nathaniel has turned to William, smiling.

9 NATHANIEL

...how might you feel about a *change* in venues?

10 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Even with everything that's happened the past few weeks, this one hurts. A *lot*.

## PAGE 6

Now.

6.1 Closeup-- Nightwing's escrima stick, in a plastic evidence bag. It's sitting inside a box, along with bloody articles of clothing. The boxes should look kind of like these:

<http://store.sirchie.com/Assets/ProductImages/ecb008.jpg>

This shot is a point-of-view through Nightwing's RED LENSES.

*Eddy and Rod-- I want to use what Trevor McCarthy did in issue 4 as our "look" for the shots through Nightwing's*

*lenses-- circular patterns in a multiply blend mode. Rod, can you design something similar? I want to use this pattern even in the point-of-view shots that aren't red. The goal is for his lenses to start looking more "hi-tech."*

1 LOCATION CAPTION: GOTHAM CITY. NOW.

2 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

The Strayhorn Brothers-- a double murder in Old Gotham last week.

3 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Beaten to death by one of my Escrima sticks.

6.2 Closeup of Nightwing, who is studying the box. His lenses are RED.

4 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Of course, whenever a "Bat" weapon turns up like this, the media circus is never far behind.

5 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Like the Rossini murder last year.

6.3 Wide shot. Pull back to show we're in the aisle of a dark GCPD evidence room. Rows of boxes stand on metal shelves. Nightwing is looking inside one box. Let's get a sign in here somewhere that says EVIDENCE ROOM.

6 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Except it's been a *week* without word of the murder weapon hitting the press at all.

7 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

So...

6.4 Close on Nightwing. With one hand, he's carefully holding the escrima stick up to his eyes.

8 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

...what's *different* about *you*?

9 SFX: DEET DEET



10 ALFRED (ELECTRONIC/RADIO FONT)  
To all the allies of the bat  
presently in Gotham...

6.5 Point of view shot, through Nightwing's lenses.  
Nightwing is still looking at the escrima stick, but of  
more importance is the pop up VIDEO IMAGE of Alfred that  
dominates the frame.

Above the image of Alfred, heads up display text reads:

URGENT!

*Rod-- Let's do this text in Photoshop, too, in a multiply  
blend mode. I can send you the font.*

11 ALFRED (VIDEO)  
...I send this with the greatest  
urgency.

12 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
Wha--?

## PAGE 7

7.1 Point of view shot again, but this time let's go  
tighter on the image of Alfred.

1 NIGHTWING  
Tonight, the Court of Owls has  
sent their assassins to kill  
nearly forty people across the  
city. The Court's targets are all  
Gotham figureheads. People who  
shape this city.

2 ALFRED (VIDEO)  
I have uploaded a list of the  
targets' names...

7.2 Point of view still, but Alfred's face has been  
superimposed by (or replaced by) a series of NAMES: Mayor  
Hady, Commissioner Gordon, Lucius Fox, District Attorney  
Spencer, etc.

3 ALFRED (VIDEO)

...*here*. The Court's assassins,  
the "talons," are likely already  
en route to their targets.

4 ALFRED (VIDEO)  
They are highly trained killers  
with extraordinary regenerative  
abilities.

5 ALFRED  
For many of their targets, I fear  
it may too late to-- -BANG--BANG-

7.3 Nightwing is putting the escrima stick back in the box,  
as he pulls out a grappling gun with his other hand. He's  
got a look of urgency to him.

6 ALFRED  
I will keep the-- -BANG-

7 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
The Strayhorn Brothers have to  
*wait*.

8 NIGHTWING  
I'm at G.C.P.D. now, but this  
place is *Fort Knox* compared to  
City Hall. Commissioner Gordon has  
an *army* with him here.

7.4 Big hero shot-- Nightwing leaps into the night air at  
us. He's rushing to go save the Mayor.

9 NIGHTWING  
I can be to Mayor Hady in five  
minutes--

## PAGE 8

8.1 Small establishing shot. Exterior City Hall - night.  
Architecture wise, I can think of at least one instance  
where City Hall was established in the series Gotham  
Central-- that might be a good basis for us. Regardless,  
our version will need to be somewhat tall (20-30 stories).

*Eddy-- when we show the front steps, let's design them to look like these:*

[http://fc09.deviantart.net/fs71/f/2010/343/0/8/gotham\\_city\\_hall\\_by\\_koning\\_erik-d34jzh5.jpg](http://fc09.deviantart.net/fs71/f/2010/343/0/8/gotham_city_hall_by_koning_erik-d34jzh5.jpg)

[http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1175/946801072\\_49a59be01b.jpg](http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1175/946801072_49a59be01b.jpg)

[http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1261/1198570066\\_c25a702623.jpg](http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1261/1198570066_c25a702623.jpg)

1 NIGHTWING (CAPTION)

--Let's pray that's **fast** enough!"

2 COUNCILMAN DAVIS

I'm telling you right now, Mr.  
Mayor--

8.2 Wide shot. We're inside the Mayor's Office now. MAYOR SEBASTIAN HADY is sitting at his desk, across from DEPUTY MAYOR THOMAS KAVANAUGH and COUNCILMAN DAVIS.

Papers are spread everywhere as the three men review budgets and statistics. They all look a bit tired-- like they've been doing this for some time. Councilman Davis is talking to Mayor Hady, as Deputy Mayor Hady studies a document, quiet. Let's focus on Kavanaugh and Davis.

The characters:

-Mayor Hady-- <http://www.comicvine.com/mayor-hady/29-77370/images/>

-Deputy Mayor Kavanaugh-- this is a new character (though one that will become very important later in the series). Whereas Mayor Hady looks somewhat sleazy, Deputy Mayor Kavanaugh should look borderline presidential. He's early 40's and clean cut. I'm picturing someone kind of like Carcetti from THE WIRE-- <http://www.chicagonow.com/lists-that-actually-matter/files/2011/07/54-Carcetti-press-conference.jpg>

-Councilman Randal Davis-- a somewhat large, silver haired man in his late fifties.

3 COUNCILMAN DAVIS

--it'll pass the Council vote. I mean, it'll take a bit o' finesse--redistricting the equivalent of slum land **just** to prevent Bruce Wayne from rebuilding isn't exactly an easy--

4 MAYOR HADY

Thank you, Randall. I've noted your opinion. But right now I'm more interested in Deputy Mayor Kavanaugh answering my **original** question.

8.3 The Mayor, annoyed, as he looks at Kavanaugh.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR KAVANAUGH

Sir?

6 MAYOR HADY

Stop dancing and give me an **answer**, Thomas. Can I **count** on you in all this? Can the **future** of this God forsaken city count on you?

8.4 Kavanaugh. The look on his face says "no." But before he can answer--

8.5 The room goes BLACK. The power is out in the building. The three men look around.

7 SFX: SH000M

8 MAYOR HADY

What the hell?

8.6 We're outside the Mayor's office, looking at Councilman Davis as he opens the office door (from the inside). Councilman Davis is looking back over his shoulder at the Mayor.

9 COUNCILMAN DAVIS

I've got five dollars that says nobody told maintenance we were still--

## PAGE 9

9.1 We're over Councilman Davis' shoulder as he looks into the dark hallway (which contains lots of dark wood and polished floors as well as flags and crests of Gotham City). Think something like these:

[http://farm1.static.flickr.com/59/215992327\\_344d5cd7d2.jpg](http://farm1.static.flickr.com/59/215992327_344d5cd7d2.jpg)

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get/I0000tD4rGJam9T0/s/900/900/Chicago-City-Hall-707475.jpg>

But most important-- lying in the hallway are THREE DEAD BODIES (the security guards). The scene should look pretty brutal-- they're quite slashed up.

9.2 We're in profile, looking at the Councilman, whose face has a look of shock on it. Standing off to the side, just out of his view, is THE TALON. He should look creepy and ominous, cloaked in shadow except for the YELLOW EYES in his mask.

Eddy-- this Talon is from the 1960's. Design wise, think CIA and KGB spy, mixed with a bit of a James Bond flare. His primary weapon is a katana sword, that has an intricate handle and hilt... modeled after an owl. Think something kind of like this:

<http://ryanlb.com/images/swords/images/dragon-swords.jpg>

10 COUNCILMAN DAVIS

What... the...

9.3 The Talon SLICES the Councilman's throat.

11 SFX: SCHWTT

9.4 We're behind the Talon as he enters the room. Perhaps we're low, with the Talon's leg/boot in the foreground and Kavanaugh and Hady shocked in the background. We could even have Councilman Davis' dead body in the foreground, too. Whatever you think, Eddy!

12 TALON 1

Mayor Sebastian Hady-- for your corruption and **betrayal** of Gotham...

9.5 Mayor Hady scrambles as The Talon raises his blade above the Mayor... about to deliver the killing blow.

*Eddy, the choreography and layout of the scene needs to play so that the Talon is standing near a large glass window.*

13 TALON  
...the Court of Owls has sentenced  
you to die!

### **PAGE 10-11 (DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD)**

10/11.1 The big panel of the spread-- Nightwing CRASHES through the window, SLAMMING into the Talon. Nightwing should look like a total bad ass, backlit by the moon, glass shattering and spraying all around him. It should be a super dynamic shot-- the action is literally right on top of us.

1 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
Damn it, I'm *already* too late.

2 SFX: KSSSSH

3 TALON  
Ghnn!

10/11.2 High wide angle, looking down at the room. The Talon goes sprawling across the floor, as Nightwing has landed in a crouch. Hady and Kavanaugh are pressed into a corner. Councilman Davis' body is lying in the doorway.

4 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
Councilman Davis and at least  
two... three security guards I can  
see in the hall-- *dead*.

5 TALON  
Well, well, well... what do we  
have here?

10/11.3 The Talon SLASHES at Nightwing, who is SLIDING out of the way of the blow...

6 TALON

The Bat's little Birdie come out  
to **play** with the Owls? How **fun** for  
me.

7 NIGHTWING

Sorry--

10/11.4 ...and into a wrap around kick that SHATTERS both  
knees of the Talon. Bones jut out-- it should look pretty  
nasty.

8 NIGHTWING

--Not quite.

9 SFX: KRAAAK

10/11.5 The Talon, down on all fours...

10 TALON

Ha... ha... ha, you **must** play  
harder than **that**, little Birdie.

11 NIGHTWING (V.O.)

Kick snapped all the tendons in  
his knees. Regeneration takes  
time-- he shouldn't be able to--

10/11.6 ...POPS his knees back into place.

12 TALON

I play **much** harder.

13 SFX: POP

14 SFX: KRAK

15 WILLIAM (V.O.)

As it turned out, the man whose  
wallet I saved was the Grand  
Ringmaster for Haly's Circus... a  
famous traveling act that toured  
the country.

**PAGE 12**

Here's some good knife juggling reference video, Eddy:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYAR57T\\_AgY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYAR57T_AgY)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAdJBUPmD0E&feature=related>

And for knife THROWING, check this whole thing out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWKdq2S66ag&feature=related>

12.1 Nathaniel, William and William's mother at their kitchen table. William's mother is the only one sitting. She's surprised.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

He'd had his eye on me for weeks.

12.2 William's mother-- stern. She's not happy.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)

And while my mother was not  
pleased to hear how I'd been  
spending my days...

12.3 Profile shot. She touches William's cheek, softly. She's got a sad look here.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)

...she had known all along.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Money **was** money, after all.

12.4 William, bags over his shoulders, stands in front of the Haly's Circus train. It's a big 2-8-0 steam locomotive.

<http://www.nnry.com/images/93%20at%20Lakawanna.jpg>

<http://www.trainnet.org/Libraries/Lib014/BCR3716.JPG>

[http://farm1.static.flickr.com/174/457391579\\_db078daf44.jpg](http://farm1.static.flickr.com/174/457391579_db078daf44.jpg)

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Which was the very reason why she  
agreed to let the Ring Master take  
me to join Haly's Circus.

12.5 William and Nathaniel stand in an outdoor practice ring. Nathaniel is dressed in a long coat with tail flaps. He's the grand ringmaster.



6 NATHANIEL

The shows we'll be performing...  
baseballs will not cut it. You'll  
need to raise your game.

7 WILLIAM

How?

12.6 Nathan hands William three juggling/throwing knives.

8 NATHANIEL

By playing a bit *harder*.

## PAGE 13

13.1 William, sixteen years old. He's shirtless, wearing a "circus" outfit, and standing on a tall/thin pedestal in the center ring... blindfolded. He's juggling four throwing knives. Eddy-- these knives should be very similar to the Talon throwing daggers you drew on the cover for issue 8.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

The next few years are somewhat of  
a blur.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)

City after city, night after  
night.

13.2 Balancing on one leg now, William THROWS the knives at a woman pinned to a wheel...

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)

I had not become *good*...

13.3 ...and they OUTLINE her body.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)

...I had become *spectacular*.

13.4 The audience goes crazy for him.

13.5 William, smiling, BOWS for everyone.

## PAGE 14

14.1 William, slightly older now (19 years old), hangs out the door of the train, a big smile on his face.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
As the years continued to  
progress, so to did my reputation.

14.2 Pull back to reveal-- the train is coming to a stop at a station. At the station, there's a GOTHAM CITY sign. A group of people amass, waiting to greet the circus performers.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Once a child *living* in Gotham...

14.3 William and several other circus performers get off the train, making their way through the group of people waiting. Think of this as being a celebrity in the 1900's.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...I had managed to become a child  
*of* Gotham.

14.4 William stops, surprised. He's noticed someone in the crowd.

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
And with that change, so came  
others.

14.5 Reveal-- a young woman in the crowd, smiling at William. This is AMELIA (it's the same girl from page 2... but she's all grown up. William's age. Let's give her the little ROBIN necklace here, too). She's beautiful. Let's put her with an older gentleman-- her butler.

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Her name was *Amelia*, and during  
one of Haly's annual stays in  
Gotham...

14.6 William smiles back.

6 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
...we fell in love.

7 MAYOR HADY (CAPTION)  
"What- what *is* that thing?!"

**PAGE 15**

15.1 Nightwing RUSHES Hady and Kavanaugh out of their office.

Behind them, the Talon is gaining on them (*Eddy-- we may not need to see the Talon in this panel if you can't get him in*).

1 NIGHTWING

They call him The Talon-- he's an assassin for the Court of Owls, here to kill you!

2 MAYOR HADY

The Court?! But that's a *fairly* tale! They're not *real*!

15.2 The Talon SLASHES at Nightwing from behind, but Nightwing has LEAPT up one of the side walls in order to avoid the strike. Then, using shadow images, Nightwing bounces off the wall AT the Talon.

3 NIGHTWING

Really? You want to argue about that *now*?

4 NIGHTWING

Just keep moving!

5 TALON

Yes, run, run away little Birdie! Run, run--

15.3 Nightwing SLAMS into the Talon, as the two Mayors keep running down the hallway. The Talon's sword goes flying.

6 TALON

Ghn!

15.4 Nightwing glances over his shoulder-- the Mayors are down the hall, trying the door to the stairs... but it's locked.

*Eddy-- at the dead end of the hallway (where the two Mayors are standing,) let's make sure there's a window that's big enough for people to go flying out of. In issue 9, Nightwing is going to SLAM William Cobb through it.*

7 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
Keep him occupied long enough for  
the Mayors to get out.

15.5 Nightwing is rushing at the Talon, now wielding the  
Talon's katana.

8 NIGHTWING (V.O.)  
Long enough for **no** one else to die  
here today.

9 NIGHTWING  
So... where were we?

10 TALON  
Oh, you want to **challenge** me to a  
sword fight? Is that it?

11 TALON  
I've been trained by the best  
fighters on the **planet**.

## PAGE 16

*Eddy-- let's do this page as tight snapshots, with one  
action really leading to the next. Feel free to re-  
structure and add to this as you see fit, but the sequence  
needs to look super visceral and violent. Feel free to  
shred up Nightwing's costume, too, as he and the Talon  
exchange blade blows.*

16.1 Nightwing BLOCKS a blade strike from the Talon.

1 NIGHTWING  
Good. So have **I**.

16.2 Nightwing SLASHES the Talon across the chest with the  
Katana...

16.3 ...but then the Talon's dagger GRAZES his arm.

2 NIGHTWING  
Argh!

16.4 With his off hand, Nightwing PUNCHES the Talon in the  
face.

3 TALON

Uhn!

16.5 But the Talon LUNGES at Nightwing...

16.6 ...and Nightwing IMPALES the Talon through the stomach/chest.

4 TALON

Hrk!

5 TALON

***Good...***

16.7 Same angle as 16.7, But the Talon has actually moved UP the blade... getting closer to Nightwing. The katana now sticks out THROUGH the Talon's back.

6 TALON

...but not ***nearly*** spectacular.

16.8 The Talon backhand SLASHES Nightwing across the face with the dagger.

7 NIGHTWING

GAH!!

## **PAGE 17**

17.1 Nightwing, down on his knees, grabs at his face. It's bleeding and there's a horizontal slash that runs from his cheek to his nose. The mask is torn/shredded here, too (not enough to reveal his identity, but enough to look beat up).

The Talon is PULLING the sword OUT OF HIS STOMACH.

1 TALON

Very disappointing, little birdie...

17.2 The Talon is RAISING the sword above his head, preparing to decapitate Nightwing.

2 TALON

...Very disappointing indeed.

3 NIGHTWING

Well, what can I say...

However, Nightwing is covertly reaching behind his own back (he'll be reaching for an escrima stick, Eddy. But let's keep that a secret from the audience).

17.3 Dynamic shot-- Nightwing IMPALES the escrima stick into the Talon's helmet lenses.

4 NIGHTWING

...I guess I'm no **Owl**.

5 TALON

Nnn!

17.4 The Talon falls over, the escrima stick jutting straight out of the Talon's mask (picture it being stuck in the Talon's eye socket).

17.5 Nightwing stands over him, trying to catch his breath. *Eddy-- it might be cool to have Nightwing have his hands on his knees and make him look winded. Just an idea-- it all depends on how brutal you make the fight :)*

6 NIGHTWING

Yeah... let's see you regenerate around **that**...

7 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Although she was the daughter of Burton Crowne, my relationship with Amelia was easy from the start.

## PAGE 18

18.1 William and Amelia walking down the streets of Gotham, side by side.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)

We were **happy** together.

18.2 William and Amelia, at dinner. Happy.

2 WILLIAM (V.O.)

Two children in **love**.

18.3 William and Amelia, sleeping together.

3 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
In hindsight, that was really the  
beginning of the end.

18.4 William performs his knife juggling-- this is the same  
angle as 13.1...

4 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Even though neither of us knew it.

18.5 ...but Amelia watches him now, from the audience.  
She's smiling.

5 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
In the months that would come,  
*everything* would be stripped away.

## PAGE 19

19.1 Nightwing has caught up to Hady and Kavanaugh.  
Nightwing is carrying the Talon over his shoulder. The  
escrima stick still juts out of the eye.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
At the time it would feel like the  
ultimate betrayal.

2 KAVANAUGH  
You *killed* him...?

3 NIGHTWING  
He was *already* dead. The stick's  
just preventing his healing factor  
from kicking in.

19.2 Nightwing KICKS down the door to the stairs.

4 NIGHTWING  
Still, we should hurry up and--

5 SFX: WHAM

19.3 Suddenly, Nightwing is hit in the SHOULDER by a THROWING KNIFE. He DROPS the Talon.

6 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
But it would be nothing compared  
to the betrayal I witness here  
*tonight.*

7 NIGHTWING  
Hrk!

8 SFX: THUNK

19.4 Hady and Kavanaugh watch in horror as Nightwing is hit in the chest by two MORE throwing knives.

9 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
Because **this** betrayal takes  
everything I sacrificed and makes  
it moot.

10 SFX: THUNK THUNK

19.5 Nightwing, down on his knees, clutches his chest.

11 WILLIAM (V.O.)  
*This* betrayal is from my own  
*descendant*. Which is why I,  
William Cobb...

12 NIGHTWING  
No...

## PAGE 20 (SPLASH)

Reveal-- the Talon from the Batcave (in issue 7), standing in front of Nightwing, the Hady and Kavanaugh.

This is William Cobb-- the Talon from the Batcave in issue 7 (also, check issue 2 of Batman for more reference). He's holding several throwing knives.

1 WILLIAM (V.O.)



...am here to kill ***Richard  
Grayson.***

2 NEXT ISSUE: THE GRAYSONS OF GOTHAM